

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DJAINA DERVIL

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 25, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Djaina Dervil on her accomplishments and to congratulate her on receiving the United States Department of State Gilman Scholarship.

Djaina "Nina" Dervil is a rising senior at Florida State University pursuing a major in Behavioral Neuroscience and a minor in Chemistry. She was born and raised in North Miami Beach, which she still calls home.

Her Gilman Scholarship enabled her to develop her grant-writing abilities and expand her STEM exploration. She worked with SeedScience on grant writing in the areas of environmental awareness and STEM education. Using the Gilman Scholarship, Djaina traveled and conducted research within the United States. She credits the Gilman Scholarship with contributing to her drive to conduct further research and to continue in academia.

She wants to acknowledge her mother, Sonnie Noel Dervil, and her father, Jules Dervil, for their sacrifices and efforts to fuel her education. She also wants to thank her brothers, Jodson Noel and Nikson Noel, for their support, assistance, and guidance. It's because of her family and support system that she was able to excel and secure this scholarship.

Following her undergraduate studies, she plans on securing an MD/Ph.D. and applying through the Fulbright program to pursue her masters in the United Kingdom.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Djaina Dervil for her accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

**HON. GREG STANTON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 25, 2022*

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Native American Connections on 50 years of empowering our community and ensuring more people have access to health care, can overcome substance use disorders, and have a place to call home. Through services rooted in Native American culture, it has filled unmet need in our community and created opportunities for people beyond indigenous groups to thrive.

NAC has grown quickly from its days as a small grassroots organization. Thousands of lives have been improved by its programs, which range from helping families and individ-

uals transition into permanent housing to helping people recover from substance abuse issues.

A constant figure in NAC's history is its president and CEO, Dede Yazzie Devine, who has led the organization for 43 years. Dede's work is intertwined in NAC's legacy and embodies the principles of stewardship, compassion, and tenacity. It is for her work and all those who have contributed their time and talents that NAC's vision has moved forward.

NAC has created an impact that's felt far beyond our indigenous communities and across our state. I join our community in celebration of 50 incredible years of this organization.

HONORING DON LEMON

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 25, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Lemon on his accomplishments and to congratulate him on receiving the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom and Justice Award.

Don Lemon is a multiple Emmy and Edward R. Murrow award-winning CNN Anchor. He has worked for news stations across the country and has reported for NBC News's New York Operations as a correspondent for Today, Weekend Today, NBC Nightly News, and MSNBC.

Born on March 1, 1966, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Don Lemon graduated from Baton Rouge public schools and attended Louisiana State University, later graduating from Brooklyn College. The best-selling author moderates CNN political town halls and co-hosted the Color of Covid special that addressed the pandemic's impact on communities of color.

During the 116th Congress, I worked to pass historic, bipartisan legislation creating the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. Lemon will always be remembered as a leading network voice following the death of George Floyd and subsequent protests and riots.

Lemon was honored for being a champion for males of color at the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project's 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast, and it is an honor to call him a friend.

HONORING DR. MARIA ORIAKHA

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 25, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to

recognize Dr. Maria Oriakha for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Dr. Maria Oriakha's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Maria Oriakha for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

HONORING JOHNNY C. TAYLOR, JR.

**HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 25, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., for the grand opening of the Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience.

The UTrailblazers Experience is a multimedia tribute recognizing and commemorating Black students, living and deceased, who graduated from the University of Miami during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as spotlights the contributions of present and future black students. In 1961, the first trailblazers set foot on campus when the University of Miami admitted its first Black students three and a half decades after the university first opened its doors. The inaugural forty-student class dismantled many barriers and paved the way for generations to come.

The Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience was birthed from an initiative by the Black Alumni Society, which shined a light on the many struggles the first Black students endured. At the time, the information was only available in the archives of the University of Miami Libraries.

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. is a University of Miami alumnus and member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees. Mr. Taylor has gifted UTrailblazers Experience as a permanent exhibit to celebrate and highlight the accomplishments of students and future generations of students who make a difference in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., for his contribution to the University of Miami community and his commitment to preserving the history of past students and honoring the potential of future generations of Black students.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.